RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The number of consequential train accidents during the current calendar year upto 10-07-2000 is 251.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Inquiry is held into each accident either by Railway Officers or in case of serious accidents by Commissioner of Railway Safety. Out of the 251 accidents, 14 cases have been entrusted to Commissioner of Railway safety and the remaining have been inquired into by committees of Railway Officers.

Land acquisition for the East Coast Railway Zone

743. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the East Coast Railway Zone has not become fully functional;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether land acquisition for the Zone has been completed;

(d) what are the requisite norms required to make that Railway Zone fully functional; and

(e) the details of steps taken to fulfil those norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the financial resource crunch being faced by the Railways, the issue of creation of new Zones is presently under review.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, an individual has claimed that the Land given by State Government on lease to Railway belongs to him. A court case is pending in this regard.

(d) and (e) The essential requirements for making the Zone fully functional include the complete development of infrastructure, deployment of staff and officers alongwith finalization of jurisdiction under a separate General Manager. However, as mentioned at (b) above, the entire issue of reorganisation is presently under review.